

County required water and since there were only 11 thousand acres of agricultural property with water rights that is what we submitted. It didn't get turned down initially. The GMHB felt that our Rural Development Districts (RDD) were improperly done. What we had done in our RRD is follow the Thurston County plan which had already been adopted. That put RDD's in one house in five acres countywide. The GMHB came back and said you cannot do that. You have to have a mix of RDD's. They allowed that we could do that in 5's, 10's, and 20's. Forest land and ARL and mineral land have different issues and there are different criteria set for them. We went back to the drawing board and redid our RDD's and they were adopted and the GMHB accepted them, but said you never cleared your ARL's and those do not qualify. As a result, we had about 130,000 to 160,000 acres that the board found in invalidity in Lewis County., and asked us to go back and look at this. I chaired the committee that came up with the new plan in 2003 with 47,000 acres. That committee consisted of mainly people that were in agriculture or supported agriculture endeavors. One of the things you have to understand in Lewis County is this is not Eastern WA. When GMHB formed the criteria for ARL's they did it on an Eastern, WA model. This was intended predominately for much larger row cropping agriculture. Lewis County is not agricultural void, but we are predominately forest. There are 900,000 acres of our 1,000,500 acres in FRL's. Our ARL land is down the valleys of the three major rivers that form our county's basic river basins. The average lot of agriculture is about 49 acres. The average income is \$10,000. This is poverty level; our average farm does not make it. We have been subsistence farming for a long time and there are very few farms, other than our poultry operations, some of our dairy operations, and some of our larger cattle operations that make it alone on farming. They have to have another income in the family. Like you, I am not happy in where we have to go in GM. I have gone to the Legislature with a number of changes. Been to the Courts twice and provided some relief. It has cost us. Since 2003, we have had 163,000 in moratorium and haven't been able to do anything. There are many of us in the Farm Bureau that believe this should end. Set a level so we can give some assurance to the property owner on where they stand and what they do with their property. We cannot do that until we get something into the GMHB, which is going to be adopted.

There are some of you who have not found out where you are at until recently. On the other hand, we have been working hard on this plan since 2003. The PC has been meeting for the last five years two and three times a month until 10:00 pm. They have fought hard to try to get us a plan that provides some rationality but meets the requirements that are being pushed on us by the GMHB. I do not like this plan and I do not think it is the best solution. I think we have come a long way. We have a plan now, which can be accepted. We have a number of people who have been fighting us on this plan that look at this and say there are things they would like, but this is closer than we have ever been. That gives me some hope that we can close this chapter and move on. We have people who have been sitting in this county that need to do things. You heard from our Director of our Economic Development Council, we had nine cities and towns who have tried to expand their UGA's, but have been unable to do so because we have been in moratorium under our ARL's. People are leaving because they cannot find work. The timber industry is stagnate. The agricultural industry is having serious problems and we have no alternative. On the other hand, we need to acknowledge the fact that agriculture is a force in Lewis County. Statistically we produce somewhere between \$89 and \$110 million dollars in agriculture sales Three hundred and thirty